

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

## ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY/TOWN OF GOSHEN WATER SHORTAGE

### SITUATION REPORT # 8

1500 Hours June 26, 2007

*New information is in bold italics.*

*Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily*

### SUMMARY

The Town of Goshen water system was shut down on 14 June due to a leak that occurred on 13 June. A local emergency was declared at 1100 hours, 14 June. Actions are being coordinated to identify leaks in the system and alleviate the adverse conditions.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Recovery Operations and augmented with limited staff.

**State of Emergency:** Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency on June 20, 2007 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, directing state agencies to take all necessary actions to aid in the response and recovery from a water outage in the Town of Goshen in Rockbridge County.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared: Rockbridge County declared a local emergency on 14 June 2007.

**ESF 15 – External Affairs:** VDEM and VDH Public Affairs are coordinating public affairs support to Rockbridge County and the Town of Goshen. Public Affairs staff responding to media inquiries and coordinating release of public awareness information.

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Rockbridge County: Tuesday, 26 June** – Partly cloudy with chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon; high temperatures in the low 90's with light western winds about 6 MPH. **Tuesday Night** – Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms before 9PM; low temperatures in the mid 60's with light western winds diminishing. **Wednesday, 27 June** – Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms; high temperatures in the low 90's with south winds between 4 and 7 MPH.

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** Producing and distributing State Situation Report. VDEM Mobile Command Post, 4 support vehicles and VDEM/VEOC Communications Staff, Operations Staff, and Regional Hazardous Materials Officers returned on 25 June.

**Local Liaison:** VDEM Local Support Services Region Three Coordinator on scene to assist local Emergency Management officials along with VDEM local planning staff.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

#### **ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: VA Department of Health (VDH)**

Boil Water Advisory remains in effect until further notice. VDH Office of Drinking Water staff is monitoring town's emergency water supply needs while having mobilized for rapid water sample collection and arranged for laboratory testing of water samples, in anticipation that the Town's water delivery problems will be corrected. This will expedite use of the system by residents as soon as possible following lifting of the Boil Water Advisory. Due to the tenuous condition of the system, the boil water advisory could continue for the next 7-14 days. ODW and VDEM staff continue to emphasize the fragile nature of the Town's water system and that gains made in the past several days could be lost suddenly. VDH is in contact with three area hospitals in order to

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detect and investigate any disease outbreak related to potential water contamination. Ready to feed baby formula is being made available for all infants who are part of the Women, Infants and Children Program in the Goshen area affected by the water shortage by Central Shenandoah Health District. VDH Office of Drinking Water is working with VA Department of Housing and Community Development, USDA Rural Development, and VDEM to identify funding options to replace lines rather than continual repair.

### **ESF 16 – Military Support: VA National Guard (VNG)**

36 VNG personnel are on State Active Duty assisting with water distribution and water hauling operations. ***All VNG personnel and resources are projected to be off State Active Duty as of 1700 hours 26 June.***

### **HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

### **ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: American Red Cross**

The Red Cross continues to feed response and repair workers while assisting with water and information distribution.

### **LOGISTICS SECTION**

### **ESF 7 – Resource Support: VA Department of Emergency Management**

Rockbridge County Emergency Management requested additional communications support from the State. An additional 10 land lines, fax capability are operational. Seventeen requests for assistance have been received; sixteen have been completed, and one has been cancelled.

### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

The Town of Goshen's water system is continuing to maintain pressure and is being refilled through the Town's pump system. An Information & Assistance Center has been established for Goshen residents, at 540-997-7267 or 540-997-7268. Plans are to operate the system on a near normal basis for all residents, allowing for bathing and flushing. ODW staff will begin to purge the system of highly chlorinated water it now contains and prepare for water sample testing next week. Fourteen leaks have been identified and repaired and currently there are no leaks detected. Even though water may begin to appear in the Town system, a voluntary conservation request has been issued. Conserving water will enable operators to more accurately locate leaks, and to more quickly restore the system to normal operation. Water distribution is available at Town Hall and water is being delivered to residents who are incapacitated or unable to drive. A staging area located at Routes 39 and 42 has been set up to distribute non-potable water. Rockbridge County Emergency Manager, accompanied by VDEM Local Planner and VDEM Regional Coordinator updated the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors 25 June.

To ensure adequate fire protection is in place, fire departments in adjacent communities have been placed on stand-by and a burn ban remains in effect for the Town of Goshen. ***The Blue Ridge Baptist Association shut down its operations after providing 42 showers and 56 loads of laundry.***

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